

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 04803 141633Z

51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15

PRS-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /093 W

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P 141621Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5804

INFO AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WARSAW 4803

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : PFOR,PL

SUBJECT: REPORT OF GOMULKA'S DEATH

1. EXECUTIVE EDITOR OF INTERPARESS TOLD EMBOFFS TODAY THAT GOMULKA DIED SUDDENLY WHILE IN BULGARIA FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT AND HIS BODY WAS FLOWN BACK TO WARSAW TWO DAYS AGO. SOURCE WAS SURPRISED THAT NEWS HAD NOT YET APPEARED IN POLISH PRESS.

2. EMBASSY FINDS IT SOMEWHAT CURIOUS THAT, IF THIS REPORT IS TRUE, GOP WOULD DELAY ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOMULKA'S DEATH. HIS POPULARITY HAD WORN SO THIN BY THE TIME OF HIS BEING FORCED OUT OF OFFICE BY THE WORKERS' RIOTS IN GDANSK AND SZCZECIN IN DECEMBER 1970 THAT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE NEWS OF HIS DEATH WOULD BE GREETED PUBLICLY IN POLAND BY MUCH MORE THAN INDIFFERENT SHRUGS AND THE REVIVAL OF A NUMBER OF THE BETTER ANTI-GOMULKA JOKES. HOWEVER, POSSIBLY THE GIEREK REGIME IS HAVING DIFFICULTY WORKING OUT TO ITS OWN SATISFACTION THE SCENARIO FOR ITS OFFICIAL POSTURE UPON THE DEATH OF A MAN WHO ENJOYED GENUINE POPULARITY AS A NATIONAL LEADER IN 1956 AND FOR SEVERAL YEARS THEREAFTER BUT BOWED OUT TO THE TUNE OF BLOODY RIOTS IN 1970.

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DAVIES

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 14 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
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30 JUN 2005

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